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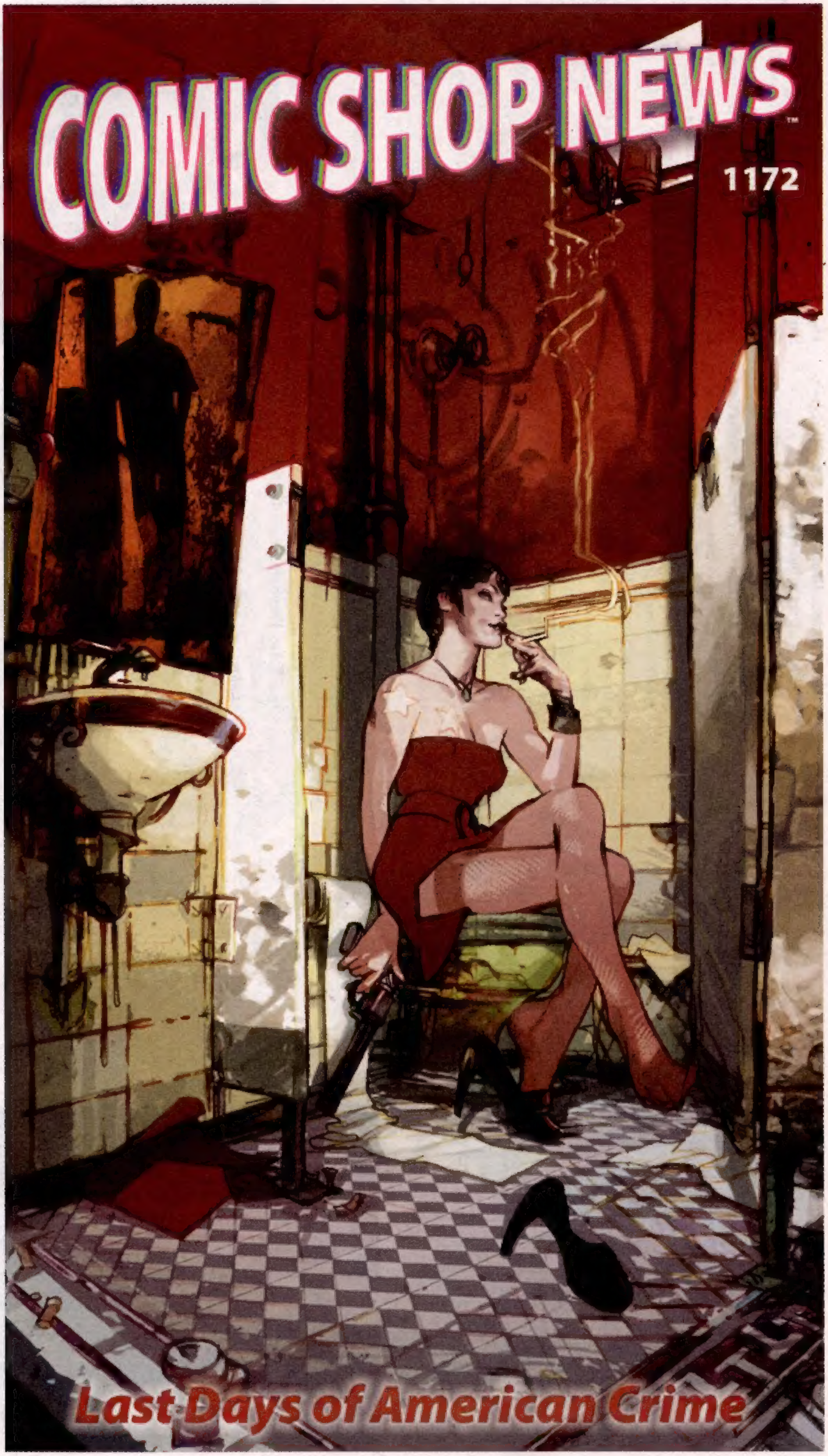

Last Days of American Crime

What are the most important days of your life?

"Beautifully written, utterly gorgeous...completely blew me away"

— Gerard Way (Umbrella Academy, My Chemical Romance)

daytripper

A 10 issue series about quiet moments and big questions

Written & Illustrated by Eisner & Harvey Award Winners

Gabriel Bá and Fábio Moon

DECEMBER 2009

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Trick As a Bricke

If there's one universal truth about human nature, this is it: as soon as someone comes up with a foolproof system to accomplish any goal, someone else works tirelessly to crack that system.

Graham Bricke is one of those people who finds a way to crack the system... even when the system is supposed to make it impossible for anyone to crack the system ever again!

Last Days of American Crime, a three-part series by *Rick Remender & Greg Tocchini*, blends two popular genres in a surprising way. "At its core, this is a heist story set against a science fiction backdrop," Remender said. "In the near future, a round of domestic terrorism has caused mass paranoia, which allows the government to create and establish some sweeping changes that effectively erode civil liberties in the name of safety.

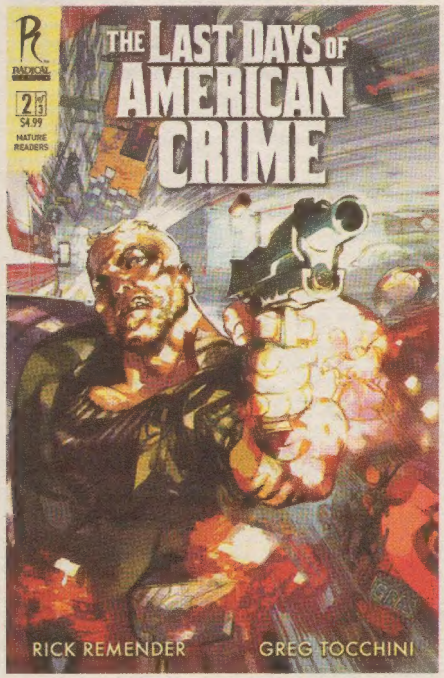
"Our main character, Graham Bricke, has discovered a way to exploit one of these new technologies for personal gain, but he can't do it alone and so has to enlist the help of two other criminals in the effort."

Bricke is convinced he's found the perfect way to pull off this techno-heist... but it turns out to be a bit more challenging than he anticipated. "The premise is really straightforward, but as the story unfolds, nothing really goes as planned, no one really turns out to be who we thought they'd be, and everyone descends into that delicious chaos I love working in," Remender said.

Bricke thinks he's found a way to use technology for his own gain... but what he doesn't anticipate is another technological advance that throws a real hitch into his scheme. "There are *two* pieces of technology that are part of two different initiatives, and the two together spark the action," Remender explained. "The first is a plan to transfer all cash in the United States to cash cards that could be charged from special federal cash machines. This way, all money can be traced—especially money going to terrorists.

"Graham ends up getting a job as a security guard at the very bank that all of these cash machines are going to be shipped from. His plan is to rip one off, re-program it, high tail it to Canada, and live the rest of his life endless charging his card up. All he needs is the time to plan it...which he doesn't have because of the *second* technology that pops up: the API signal (American Peace Initiative), a beam that will be broadcast over the entire US that, on a psycho-chemical level, keeps people from knowingly breaking the law—essentially ending crime in the US.

"Now this was going to be a secret, just something that the government was going to do... except a couple of reporters broke the story (and subsequently--and according to the government coincidentally—end up dead). With the API revealed, the government intends to push up its timeframe, which means the beam is going to broadcast in two weeks. So now Graham only has two weeks to plan this caper. He has to bring in help: Kevin Cash and Shelby Dupree, a safe cracker and a computer hacker. With the limited time afforded him, he just has to trust them. "



The whole thing sounds like a heaping helping of noir mixed with a carefully prepared base of *Philip K. Dick*; what was the inspiration for the story? "Most of the story was conceived of during the Bush administration when I looked around and saw people ready to just give up their civil liberties because they thought that would make them safer," Remender said. "I began to think what that might do to criminal impulses... Now, to take this idea to its extreme, I threw in the element of sci-fi, made it so that crime was going to soon become extinct. For most people, it's not a problem, for most people it's going to make them feel safe, but for people who make their money 'extra-judiciously,' this is a threat to their livelihood...and they go nuts."

While ***Last Days of American Crime*** is a near-future SF story, Remender made a point to create a world not too far removed from the one in which we live. "I hope it is *very* similar," Remender said. "I tried to tap into the paranoia that we all demonstrated within the last ten years... This is, of course, an extreme look at our world—not necessarily because of it being in the future, but because a scenario is imposed that has caused people to act in ways they wouldn't normally act. So in that way, it is very different from our world.

"This future doesn't have flying cars, or robots or anything like that. It *is* our world. Graham lives in a trailer park with his mother. The future 'sci-fi' aspects are just small touches, like the kind of equipment Kevin uses to crack safes, and the technology that launches into the action."

Does Graham envision himself as a criminal *per se*, or does he feel justified in what he does? "To put his crime in perspective; Graham is pulling off the job of his life. There *are* no more jobs after this. He is going to get out, take his ailing mother, and leave behind a life of small-time crime. That's why he needs time to plan it. He needs to carefully go through each step, make sure that each piece is laid in place perfectly. The API beam really screws that up. Now it's a mad dash to finish before he can't do it any more."

Remender is convinced that, no matter how technologically advanced our society becomes, there will always be Graham Brickes looking for ways to game the system. "Humanity is a spectrum of personality, and you are always going to have people who are embracing the system, and are always going to have people who want to screw the system—some for sport, others for lifestyle... everyone has different motivations, and that's what allows writers to keep writing. You can pull two people out of that spectrum, who may seem identical, but their subtle differences will take him into stories that are wildly different. Technology only serves to amplify human impulse."

While Graham Bricke is the protagonist of the series, Remender doesn't see him as a hero. "Graham is not necessarily an admirable man. He isn't some kind of Robin Hood, sticking it to the system for the betterment of the masses. He is a small-time criminal just trying to set himself up on easy street. Yes, there is a little sympathy painted around his edges—his devotion to his mother, his fragility about his wife leaving him—but I want readers to feel as if it is hard to forgive him for what he is doing. Basically, he only seems like the hero in contrast to the worse and more brutal criminals around him."

Readers know *Rick Remender* best for his Dark Horse projects such as ***Fear Agent*** and ***End League***, as well as for his current work at Marvel, where his slicing and dicing of the Punisher has introduced readers to the new "FrankenCastle." How'd Remender end up bringing ***Last Days of American Crime*** to Radical Publishing? "I came up with ***Last Days*** the same year I came up with ***Fear Agent***: 2004. It was an interesting year for me; I was penciling a book for Dark Horse and working at Electronic Arts storyboarding, and then at night I would come home and work on pitches. In that one-year span, I fleshed out the stories for ***Fear Agent***, ***Strange Girl***, ***Sea of Red***, ***Night Mary***, ***Sorrow***, and ***The End League***.

"***Last Days*** is the last of that batch of ideas being produced—and I feel it's for the best. The previous work I've done has seasoned me well for this particular story. Barry [Radical publisher *Barry Levine*] came to me about an original project and I felt it was time to bring ***Last Days*** to life."

As it turns out, ***Last Days of American Crime*** is actually *two* projects, as Remender explained. "I'm actually doing the screenplay for ***Last Days*** at the same time I'm doing the comic, so this is a far more involved endeavor that's keeping me pretty busy!"

Last Days of American Crime #1, a $4.99 comic with art by *Greg Tocchini*, is scheduled for early January release.

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

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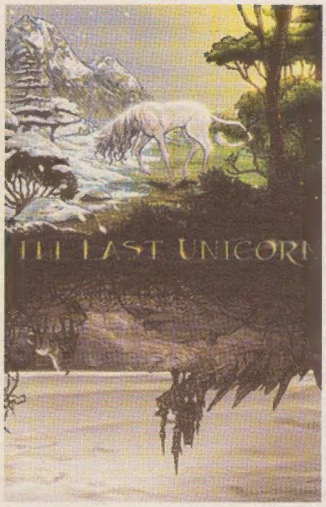
Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*



Last Unicorn Horns In On IDW Schedule

Since its 1986 publication, *Peter S. Beagle's* ***The Last Unicorn*** has sold more than 5 million copies and has inspired an animated film. Next year, this acclaimed fantasy novel will be transformed into a comic book miniseries by IDW. Adapted from Beagle's original novel by writer *Peter B. Gillis,* and lovingly illustrated by *Renae De Liz* with colors by her husband *Ray Dillon*, IDW Publishing's ***The Last Unicorn*** captures the depth and richness of this classic story.

Both darkly humorous and deeply moving, ***The Last Unicorn*** follows the journey of what may be the very last unicorn as she searches for what happened to the rest of her kind. Along the way she encounters a magical cast of good and evil characters, in a world transformed by the lack of unicorns — and by the callous, selfish disillusionment of the king who has stolen them away.

"The Last Unicorn is, for many readers — including myself — a work of complex and profound explorations of the magic of human connections, loss, and love," IDW associate editor *Mariah Huehner* said. "It's a story that affects people of all ages just as profoundly today as it did when it debuted. And we're committed to giving people that same experience with this mini-series."

"I'm delighted that IDW is this adaptation of my book," Beagle said, "and by the real concern they've shown for the integrity of what I wrote. *Peter Gillis* is a wonderful choice as a scripter—I couldn't have done a better job myself—and Renae and Ray have brought my characters to vivid life. Together with IDW, they are achieving something I honestly hadn't believed possible."

The Last Unicorn #1 is slated for April 2010 release.

DONG XOAI
VIETNAM 1965
Written and Illustrated by
Joe Kubert

CSNsider

•*Joe Kubert*, one of the world's most admired and respected creators of war comics, is taking readers back to the battlefield with ***Dong Xoai, Vietnam 1965***, an original graphic novel set for spring 2010 release from Vertigo under the Joe Kubert Library imprint. According to DC's blog The Source, ***"Dong Xoai, Vietnam 1965*** tells the story of a team of Special Forces soldiers who were on what was to be a simple assistance and observation mission in the village of Dong Xoai that suddenly turned deadly."

•IDW has announced that they will offer a special ***Angel #28 New Year's Eve Variant*** for release on December 30th (the same "almost-skip-week" that will see the debut of ***Blackest Night #6***, a variant edition of Marvel's

Fall of the Hulks Alpha and a new *CSN*). This variant will be very limited, so check with the folks at your friendly neighborhood comic shop and ask 'em what you need to do in order to make sure you don't miss out!

•Marvel commemorates "The Gauntlet's" back to basics remake of Spidey's greatest villains with a series of ***Gauntlet Villain Variants*** for ***Amazing Spider-Man #615, 617, & 618***. The first two are 1-for-15 variants; the latter is a 1-for-10 variant.

•Borders Group veteran *Micha Hershman* has signed on as Dark Horse's new Senior Director of Marketing.

Coming Comics: DC in February

Catwoman, the Penguin, Robin, and the Reaper guest-star in *Tony Daniel's* ***Batman #696,*** which finds Batman at the mercy of the Black Mask.

Grant Morrison & Cameron Stewart deliver a double serving of ***Batman and Robin*** in February as #s 8 & 9 ship with the second and third part of their "Blackest Night" arc guest-starring Batwoman, Knight and Squire. Only months into his new role as Batman, Dick Grayson faces perhaps the biggest threat of his life. In hopes of attaining his heart's desire, has Dick instead unleashed a terror the likes of which the world has never seen?

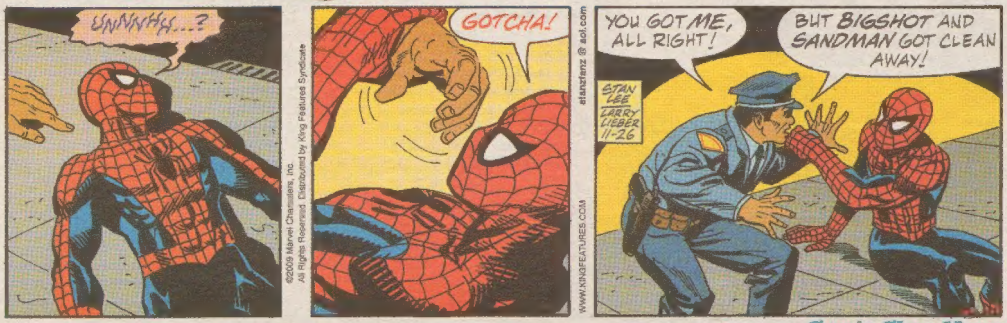
As Nekron continues to wage war on life throughout the universe, Hal Jordan discovers the grim, true mission behind the villain's return in ***Blackest Night #7,*** the penultimate issue of the best-selling series by *Geoff Johns, Ivan Reis, & Oclair Albert*. But the truth is so cosmically abysmal that it threatens to expose a secret that could tear the very universe asunder.

Barry Allen takes on the Black Lantern Reverse-Flash and seeks answers to the very nature of Professor Zoom's impending resurrection in *Geoff Johns & Scott Kolins'* ***Blackest Night: Flash #3***. Plus, the Rogues witness an act so horrifying that it changes one of their own forever.

Earth-2 Superman returns to prove that the true legacy of the Justice Society of America is death. Can our heroes rise up to defeat their dead mentors, role models and

SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER


UNNNHH...?
GOTCHA!
YOU GOT ME, ALL RIGHT!
BUT BIGSHOT AND SANDMAN GOT CLEAN AWAY!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 11-26
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villains? And can even the third- smartest man in the world, Mr. Terrific, devise a way to destroy them - or will Manhattan and the world perish under Nekron's might? Find out in ***Blackest Night: JSA #3*** by *James Robinson & Eddy Barrows.*

In *Greg Rucka & Nicola Scott's* ***Blackest Night: Wonder Woman #3,*** the Amazonian Princess comes to terms with who she is and what her role is in the world. But will her acceptance make her more appetizing to the Black Lantern hordes – or could that emotion be their undoing?

DC has a pair of mystery ***Blackest Night*** tie-ins: ***Adventure Comics Starring Black Lantern Superboy #7*** *by Tony Bedard & Travis Moore* and ***Black Lantern Green Arrow #30*** by *JT Krul & Will Conrad.* So what's happening in these surprise tie-in issues? Well, it's a secret... for now!

Aquaman and the Demon Etrigan join forces to deal with a horrifying lost city newly arisen at the bottom of the ocean in ***The Brave & The Told #32*** by *J. Michael Straczynski & Jesus Saiz.*

Hal Jordan makes the ultimate move to take on the Black Lantern Spectre in ***Green Lantern #51,*** a ***Blackest Night*** tie-in by *Geoff Johns, Doug Mahnke, & Christian Alamy.* But what price comes with the unleashing of Parallax? And what does this mean for the future of the emotional spectrum's avatars?

The battle for the Green Lantern Battery on Oa comes to a bloody end as the new front in the War of Light emerges in ***Green Lantern Corps #45*** by *Peter Tomasi, Patrick Gleason, & Rebecca Buchman.*

Len Wein, Peter Johnson, Bruno Redondo, Sergio Sandoval, Chris Sprouse, & Karl Story bring Christopher Chance back to comics in ***Human Target #1,*** the kickoff of a six-part series timed to take advantage of the launch of Fox's ***Human Target*** television series. When Chance is tasked with protecting a highly placed informant and collecting damaging evidence throughout Europe, every assassin and goon from Paris to Prague will be gunning for the Human Target!

In the aftermath of the horrific events of ***Cry for Justice,*** a member is comforted by his friends and fellow Justice Leaguers over his tragic loss. And when Dick Grayson is offered membership, will the new Batman accept? Or would he rather operate outside the realm of the World's Greatest Heroes? Find out in ***Justice League of America #42*** by *James Robinson, Mark Bagley, & Rob Hunter.*

The discovery of exactly who was behind the recent attacks on Obsidian and other members of the Justice Society puts the team on the trail of a true Axis of Evil in ***Justice Society of America #36*** by *Bill Willingham & Jesus Merino.*

Magog finds himself the odd man out during a massive escape from Haven – and his own team thinks he's somehow responsible for the prison break! Turns out, Magog may have exposed one of the DC Universe's biggest cover-ups! Find out just what's going on in ***Justice Society of America Annual #1*** by *Keith Giffen, Matthew Sturges, & Tom Derenick.*

In *Matthew Sturges & Freddie Williams II's* ***JSA All Stars #3,*** the All-Stars are on the trail of the villains who've kidnapped one of their own while internal turmoil creates drama in the ranks!

Milestone founding creators *Dwayne McDuffie, John Paul Leon, MD Bright, Denys Cowan, & ChrisCross* reunite for ***Milestone Forever,*** a two-part series that completes the tales told in the original runs of ***Static Shock, Icon, Hardware, Shadow Cabinet,*** and ***Blood Syndicate.*** This series reveals the final fate of each of Milestone's launch characters in a bittersweet tale that chronicles the literal end of a universe and the birth of something new…with major consequences for the future of the DC Universe.

Red Robin returns to Gotham City in ***Red Robin #9*** by *Christopher Yost, Marcus To, & Ray McCarthy.* Now armed with the knowledge that Bruce Wayne is lost in time, what is Tim Drake going to do about it?

John Ostrander & Gail Simone wrap up their epic team-up in ***Secret Six #18.*** The Black Lanterns have both the Suicide Squad and the Secret Six up against the wall. But Amanda Waller always has a plan. That plan: Manhunter! Plus, Deadshot is forced to make the decision of his life!

Superman faces Metallo for the first time in ***Superman: Secret Origin #5*** by *Geoff Johns, Gary Frank, & Jon Sibal.* Witness the origin of one of Superman's most-feared foes, as an attack by Lexa Luthor goes awry and gives birth to the evil of Metallo. Can an inexperienced Man of Steel handle a foe with a heart of Kryptonite?

Sterling Gates & Jamal Igle reunite to tell an epic, oversized battle royale between the Girl of Steel and a mysterious, diabolical new foe in ***Supergirl #50.*** Still reeling from last issue's harrowing events, Supergirl is put to the test when she uncovers a terrible secret about her friend and confidant, Lana Lang. This issue also features look into a day in the life of the Girl of Steel, written by *Jake Black* and Supergirl herself—actress *Helen Slater*! And art fans won't want to miss this issue's cover by the late, great *Michael Turner.*

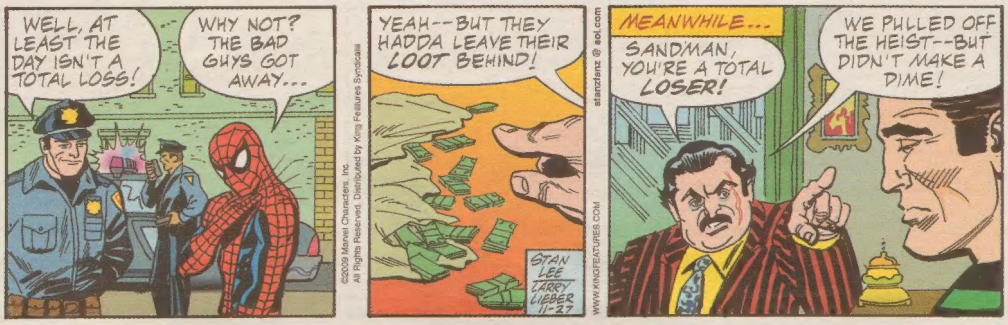
Uncover the secret aftermath of ***Our World at War*** in *Joe Casey & Ardian Syaf's* ***Superman/Batman #69*** as the identity of the shape shifting, fugitive Durlan is revealed!

As the remaining three members of the team are evicted from their New York City headquarters by General Lane, they wonder if there's anywhere on Earth they can still call home. There is—and you'll find out where in ***Titans #22*** by *JT Krul, Angel Unzueta, & Wayne Faucher.*

It's a knock-down, drag-out war in the sky between the mightiest females in the DC Universe as Wonder Woman fights Power Girl in *Gail Simone & Aaron Lopresti's* ***Wonder Woman #41.***

DC collected editions advanced-solicited for March and April release include:

- ***Batman & Robin Deluxe Edition HC Volume 1: Batman Reborn HC,*** collecting ***Batman & Robin #s 1-6*** by *Grant Morrison, Frank Quitely, Philip Tan, & Jonathan Glapion.*
- ***Batman: Heart of Hush TP,*** collecting ***Detective Comics #s 846-850.***
- ***Batman International TP,*** collecting ***Legends of the Dark Knight #s 52 & 53, Batman in Barcelona,*** and ***Batman: The Scottish Connection.***
- ***Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight Special #1,*** a 64-page collection originally offered with DC Direct's ***Legends of the Dark Knight Box Set.***


WELL, AT LEAST THE DAY ISN'T A TOTAL LOSS!
WHY NOT? THE BAD GUYS GOT AWAY...
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YEAH--BUT THEY HADDA LEAVE THEIR LOOT BEHIND!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 11-27
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MEANWHILE...
SANDMAN, YOU'RE A TOTAL LOSER!
WE PULLED OFF THE HEIST--BUT DIDN'T MAKE A DIME!

•*The Brave & the Bold: Demons and Dragons TP,* collecting *Brave & Bold v2 #s 13-16, Brave & Bold v1 #181, The Flash v2 #107,* and *Impulse #17.*

•*DC Comics Classics Library: The Justice League of America by George Perez Volume 2 HC,* collecting *JLA #s 193-197 & 200.*

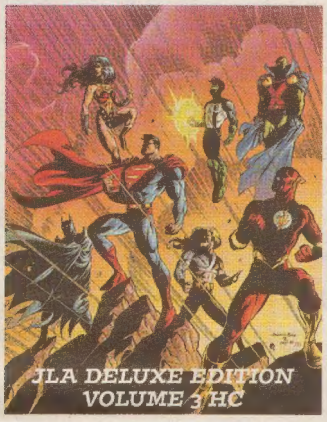
•*The Flash: Rebirth HC,* collecting the six-part miniseries by *Geoff Johns & Ethan Van Sciver.*

•*Final Crisis Aftermath: Escape TP,* collecting the six-part miniseries.

•*Final Crisis Aftermath: Ink TP,* collecting the six-part miniseries.

•*Gotham City Sirens: Union HC,* collecting *Gotham City Sirens #s 1-7.*

•*Hardware: The Man in the Machine TP,* collecting *Hardware #s 1-8.*



•*JLA Deluxe Edition Volume 3 HC,* collecting *JLA #s 22-26, 28-31, & 1,000,000.*

•*Justice League International Volume 4 TP,* collecting *Justice League International #s 23-25 & Justice League America #s 26-30.*

•*The Last Days of Animal Man TP,* collecting the six-part miniseries.

•*Oracle: The Cure TP,* collecting the *Oracle* miniseries as well as *Birds of Prey #s 126-127.*

•*Showcase Presents World's Finest Volume 3 TP,* collecting *World's Finest #s 146-160, 162-1647, & 171-173.*

•*Strange Adventures TP,* collecting the eight-issue miniseries.

•*Superman: Codename Patriot HC,* collecting *Jimmy Olsen Special #2, Superman #691, Supergirl #44, Action #880, & Superman: World of New Krypton #6.*

•*Superman: Brainiac TP,* collecting *Action #s 866-870.*

•*Tor: A Prehistoric Odyssey TP,* collecting the six-issue miniseries by *Joe Kubert.*

•*Warlord: The Saga TP,* collecting the new *Warlord #s 1-6.*

•*Wednesday Comics HC,* a massive 11" x 17.5" hardcover that contains all the full-page Sunday-comics-style strip installments from *Wednesday Comics #s 1-12,* along with such previously unseen material as The Creeper by *Keith Giffen & Eric Canete* and Plastic Man by *Evan Dorkin & Sephen DeStefano;* along with a bonus sketchbook section and intro by series editor *Mark Chiarello.*

•*Wonder Woman Chronicles Volume 1 TP,* collecting the first Wonder Woman tales from *All Star Comics #8, Sensation Comics #s 1-9,* and *Wonder Woman #1.*

•*Wonder Woman: Ends of the Earth TP,* collecting *Wonder Woman #s 20-25.*

Coming Comics: Zuda/DC in March

In 1920s New York City, Professor Ernest Baxter, an expert in all things arcane; Mindy Markus, a scrappy flapper; and Roscoe, a gargoyle from the Bronx, are The Night Owls. Together they solve crimes no one else can, specializing in the supernatural, and you can see them in action in *Peter & Bobby Timony's Night Owls Volume 1 TP.*

Coming from WildStorm/DC

WildStorm collected volumes (advance solicited for later release) include:

•*Absolute Planetary Book Two HC,* collecting *Planetary #s 13-27* by *Warren Ellis & John Cassaday* in a 384-page slipcased oversized volume.

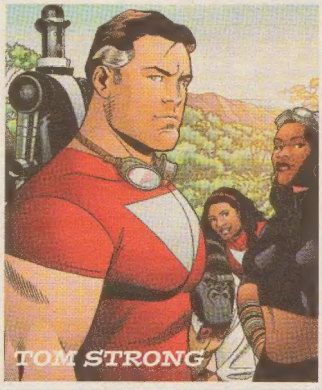
•*Absolute Planetary Book One HC,* a reissue of the sold-out slipcased oversized volume reprinting *Planetary #s 1-12.*

•*Mysterius the Unfathomable TP,* collecting the six-issue miniseries.

•*Prototype TP,* collecting the six-part miniseries.

•*Starcraft Book One HC,* collecting the first seven issue of the Blizzard game-inspired comic.

•*Tom Strong Deluxe Edition Book Two HC,* collecting tales from *Tom Strong #s 13-24.*



I HELPED YOU PULL OFF THAT BANK JOB, BIGSHOT.
SO NOW I WANT MY DAUGHTER BACK!
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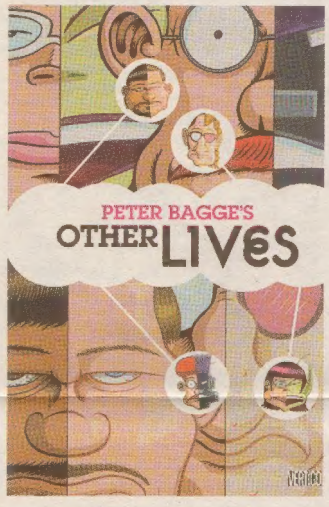
Coming Comics: Vertigo/DC in February

In New York City, a killer known as "Henry The Eighth" leaves a trail of decapitated corpses — keeping the severed heads to use for unknown purposes. NYPD Detective Adam Kamen leads the investigation, until a seemingly unrelated freak incident leaves him with a brain injury in the section known as "Brodmann Area 10." When he recovers, Adam's perceptions of time are altered. He becomes slowly convinced that his bizarre condition could be tied directly to the "Henry" case — and that the key may lie in the ancient, mystical practice of trepanation. *Christos Gage & Chris Samnee* present a compelling and creepy crime drama in *Area 10,* a Vertigo Crime Line hardcover.



In *Peter Bagge's Other Lives HC,* readers will meet three certified geeks: a self-loathing journalist who has a seemingly normal girlfriend, a conspiracy theorist who still lives with his mother, and an unemployed gamer who lives in his car. These strangely likable misfits find that dark personal secrets can sometimes be a virtue...

In *DMZ #50, Brian Wood* teams with several artists to present "Notes from the Underground," an oversized collection of short stories gathered by stranded rookie journalist Matty Roth on location in the heart of America's Second Civil War.

Brian Wood & Becky Cloonan continue their acclaimed indy series at its new Vertigo home with the release of *Demo Volume 2 #1.* In "The Waking Life of Angels," a woman is haunted by a recurring premonition; one of a person plummeting from a great height. Seriously sleep-deprived and with only fragments of images for clues, she abandons her life to travel halfway around the world in hopes of finding this person before her fateful accident occurs.

Vertigo collected editions (advance solicited for March and April release) include:

Greek Street Volume 1: Blood Calls for Blood TP, collecting ***Greek Street #s 1-5.***

•***Northlanders Volume 3: Blood in the Snow TP,*** collecting ***Northlanders #s 9, 10, & 17-20.***

•***Transmetropolitan Volume 6: Gouge Away TP,*** collecting ***Transmet #s 31-36.***

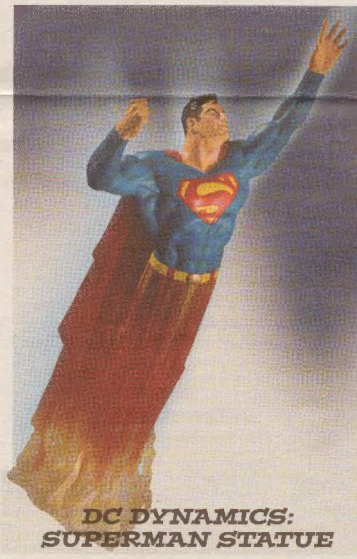
•***Unknown Soldier Volume 2: Easy Kill TP,*** collecting ***Unknown Soldier #s 7-14.***

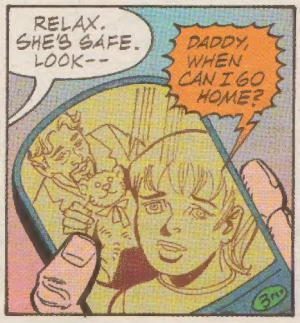
•***Y—The Last Man Deluxe Edition Book Three HC,*** collecting ***Y #s 24-36.***

Coming from DC Direct in July

Steve Rude's art is the inspiration for *Karen Palinko's* ***Batman Black & White Statue: Catwoman.*** This classic rendition of Catwoman swinging a whip is an original design by Rude and makes the perfect companion piece to Rude's version of Batman in black and white.

Jim Bruckner does the design and sculpting honors on the ***DC Dynamics: Superman Statue,*** the fourth in a series of six statues featuring dynamic interpretations of classic heroes; this statue depicts the Man of Steel





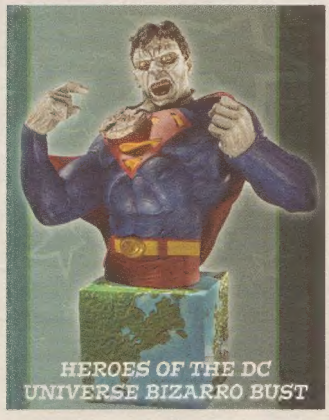
rocketing out of the Fortress of Solitude on his way to defend Metropolis.

Batman Reborn Series I features four action figures based on the best-selling series, including ***Batman: Jason Todd, Batman: Two-Face, Azrael,*** and ***Batgirl.***

The King of the Seven Seas is the third statue in a series created to capture the original depictions of DC Comics' most renowned heroes. *Tim Bruckner's* ***DC Chronicles: Aquaman Statue*** captures the idealism of classic comics, while featuring modern-day sculptural elements.

DC reissues the sold-out ***Christopher Reeve as Superman Statue***—and a portion of the price of every statue will go to the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation.

DC Direct's popular ***Ame-Comi Heroine Series*** continues with the ***Supergirl v2 PVC Figure*** and the ***Steel PVC Figure,*** depicting Natasha Jasmine Irons, daughter of the original Steel.



Gary Frank supplies the design art for the *Jean St. Jean*-sculpted ***Heroes of the DC Universe Bizarro Bust,*** which depicts Kent Clark wearing his trademark "Bizarro #1" medallion while posed atop a base of his cube-shaped home planet, Htrae.

For the first time ever in this popular product line, the 1:6 scale deluxe collector figure body has been extensively modified to reflect the unique style of a particular artist – *Alex Ross'* Kingdom Come Superman—with the release of the ***Kingdom Come Superman 1:6 Scale Deluxe Collector Figure.*** Dressed in the trademark Kingdom Come S-shield-style costume, this version of Superman closely resembles Ross' art from the legendary miniseries.

The artist's process of creating the image of Batman and Robin on the cover of ***All Star Batman & Robin #9*** is chronicled on an acid-free, double-matted authentic DC Comics artboard, perfect for framing in the ***DC Cover Art Reproduction Print: All-Star Batman & Robin by Jim Lee & Scott Williams.*** A facsimile of Lee's original pencil art appears beside a reproduction of the final, printed cover, and a Certificate of Authenticity signed by Jim Lee himself is also included. The entire piece measures approximately 20" high x 24" wide and is packaged in a self-shipping box.

Warner Home Video's made-for-DVD animated original movie ***Justice League: Crisis on Two Earths*** is the inspiration for ***Justice League: Crisis on Two Earths Owlman DVD Maquette,*** sculpted by *Derek Miller.*

DC Unlimited's ***World of Warcraft Premium Series 2 Action Figures*** include ***Gnome Warlock: Valdremar with Voidwalker Voyd*** and ***Orc Warchief: Thrall.*** Meanwhile, the standard series ***World of Warcraft Series 6 Action Figures*** include ***Dwarven King Magni Bronzebeard, Forsaken Queen Sylvanas Windrunner,*** and ***Goblin Tinker Gibzz Sparklighter.***

Coming Comics—Marvel in February

Spidey needs a favor from the Black Cat. Nothing big. He just needs her help stealing one of Mr. Negative's most valuable possessions. It's not like anything could go oh-so-horribly wrong... as you'll see in *Dan Slott & Michael Lark's* ***Amazing Spider-Man #621.***

As the Gauntlet rages on around him, ***Amazing Spider-Man #622's*** spotlight is on Peter Parker's original archenemy-turned-best friend, Flash Thompson. Since losing his legs in service to his country, Flash Thompson's not been deterred by his physical limitations. But even a hero can have his limits.

The Initiative faces its own Civil War in

Avengers: The Initiative #33 as Taskmaster, Constrictor and Diamondback join the Dark Avengers in the Siege of Asgard...and come face-to-hammer with Thor!

Duane Swierczynski & Gabriel Guzman present a prelude to the upcoming "X-Men: Second Coming" event in ***Cable #23.*** As Cable and Hope fight their way back to the present, Bishop closes in on their trail, determined to stop them using the deadliest weapons at hand. Meanwhile, a few decades from now, Cable and Hope meet an old ally who could either save them—or jeopardize everything...

Captain America faces off against the Cap from the 1950s in ***Captain America #603*** by *Ed Brubaker & Luke Ross.*

As the new leader of The Hand, Matt Murdock heads to Japan to unite its five continental regions behind his banner and lead the organization to a new future – but when all five "fingers" of The Hand form its mighty fist, you'll be surprised at who gets

NOW THIS IS WHAT I CALL A NEWS PHOTO!
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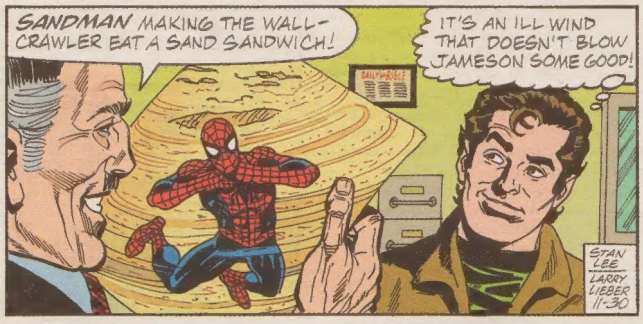
SANDMAN MAKING THE WALL-CRAWLER EAT A SAND SANDWICH!
IT'S AN ILL WIND THAT DOESN'T BLOW JAMESON SOME GOOD!
STAN LEE
LARRY LIEBER
11-30

hit first! See how the best-laid plans go wrong in ***Daredevil #505*** by *Andy Diggle & Marco Checchetto.*

The secrets of the Sentry are revealed in *Brian Bendis & Mike Deodato's* ***Dark Avengers #14...*** but is it too late? Is this a hero reborn or a eulogy?

Mystery, illusion, and games of fate await Daken in the heart of Asgard as the Siege continues all around him in ***Dark Wolverine #83.*** But when he is forced to confront himself—who he is, who he wants to be, who he could be—who will Daken choose to become: a man or a monster?

Deadpool and Spidey team up in ***Deadpool #20*** by *Daniel Way & Carlo Barberi.* So what brings 'em together? Would you believe... Hitman Monkey? And if you're wondering who the heck that is, you can learn alla bout him in ***Hitman Monkey #1,*** a simian shooter saga.

Wakanda has been conquered, its Vibranium reserves plundered. Storm faces execution in the next 48 hours. And Dr. Doom stands triumphant. It will take the combined forces of the X-Men, the Fantastic Four and the two Black Panthers to stand against him. And that's just what you'll see in ***Doomwar,*** a five-part miniseries by *Jonathan Maberry, Scott Eaton, Will Conrad,* and others.

Orson Scott Card, Aaron Johnston, & Pasqual Ferry present a oneshot prequel to ***Ender's Game*** in ***Ender's Game: Mazer in Prison Special.***

Have Bruce Banner and Red Hulk formed an alliance? Is one playing the other? And how does Hulk and Thundra's child factor into M.O.D.O.K.'s grand scheme? Answers abound in ***Fall of the Hulks: Red Hulk #2*** by *Jeff Parker & Carlos Rodriguez.*

The Red Hulk takes on the X-Men in ***Hulk #20,*** a "Fall of the Hulks" tale by *Jeph Loeb & Ed McGuinness.*

The past two years of storylines in Incredible Hercules have been building to one climactic moment, and it arrives at last in ***Incredible Hercules #141.*** The final showdown between Hercules and Typhon! Amadeus Cho becomes a true hero at last! And just why was Athena so happy at the end of "Sacred Invasion," anyway?

The mysterious Red She-Hulk takes on the Earth's Mightiest Heroes -- and only Banner and Son can save the day! But will they? Find out in ***Incredible Hulk #607,*** a

"Fall of the Hulks" tie-in.

In the ***Indomitable Iron Man Black & White One-Shot,*** Iron Man does battle with a hyper-intelligent space probe bent on terraforming the planet. And Tony battles Titanium Man while fielding calls for Stark International.

They saved the world in ***Lockjaw & the Pet Avengers***—but what've they been doing since? Find out in ***Tails of the Pet Avengers,*** a super-sized special featuring Lockjaw, Redwing, and the rest of your favorite Pet Avengers.

Marvel celebrates Valentine's Day with four tales of love and heartache in ***Marvel Heartbreakers.*** Will it be MJ Watson or Gwen Stacy that charges Peter Parker's electrons? Can the girls of Nextwave survive a visit from the ghosts of boyfriends past? Is Snowbird in danger of letting her animal passions get the best of her? And must Dazzler choose between the stage and a certain fuzzy mutant hunk? Find out in this special filled with passion, power, and pain!

The Mighty Avengers are poised to join the Siege on Asgard, but first they have some pretty huge issues to resolve, including a confrontation with Thor—and you can see it in ***Mighty Avengers #34*** by *Dan Slott & Neil Edwards.*

Brian Reed & Sana Takeda bring ***Ms. Marvel*** to a close with the 50th issue, which features Ms. Marvel versus Mystique in a fight to the finish—and the ending will rock the world of Carol Danvers!

The New Avengers are being hunted at the worst possible moment. The Hood has powered up his crew in ways that the Avengers can't possibly defeat. But they must find a way in order to save Asgard from Osborn's advancing forces in *Brian Bendis & Stuart Immonen's* ***New Avengers #62.***

Dan Brereton & Tony Moore supply the art for *Rick Remender's* ***Punisher #14,*** the fourth part of the "Frankencastle" saga.

Meet a new monster for a new age, and a challenger to the warring Kings of the Cosmos...he is Hiro-Kala, Son of Hulk, and this young apocalyptic visionary has a destructive destiny: obliterate the Universe! In ***Realm of Kings: Son of Hulk #1,*** the monstrous Son of Hulk has been abducted to Jarella's sub-atomic world deep in the Microverse, where his father once found love and acceptance. Now he must battle an invasion force of murderous aliens.

Origins, changes, and an ending—***Secret Warriors #13*** has them all! The story of how Strucker and Kraken rebuilt HYDRA. Fury's new direction for the kids...and one of the team members reaches the end of the road.

Siege #2 continues *Brian Bendis & Olivier Coipel's* four-part event that brings together heroes from all sides.

REMEMBER, BIGSHOT. I'LL HELP YOU ROB ONE MORE BANK--AND THEN YOU LET MY KID GO!
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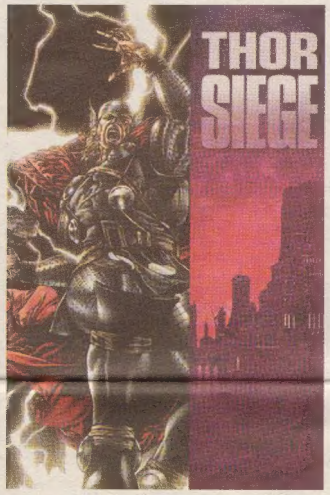
ONE SIMPLE MEGA-CRIME--THAT'S ALL I WANT.
THEN I RETURN YOUR DAUGHTER!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 12-1
WWW.KINGFEATURES.COM stanzlenz @ aol.com

Lines have been drawn, and an unlikely hero will save one Avenger, but they can't save them all... and the Siege claims its first victim as an Avenger dies.

As Norman Osborn's siege on Asgard heats up, there is one god missing. But not for long... and he's got company, as *Brian Bendis & Chris Samnee* reveal lin ***Siege: Embedded #2.***

No one knows why dragons have appeared in this word of heroes, but their very presence is re-shaping reality. Their influence destroys everything, transforming men and beasts into monsters: a curse known as the Veill. Only virgin women are free of this curse and can get close enough to these terrors to kill them. And so, the Order of the Dragon Knights is created... and you can see them in action in *Ange, Paul Benjamin, & Alberto Varanda's* ***Tales of the Dragon Guard #1.***



Asgard lies under Siege in ***Thor #607*** by *Kieron Gillen & Billy Tan.* As the evil eye of Norman Osborn falls on Asgard, what happens to neighboring Broxton, Oklahoma? What unexpected enemies will be drawn to the scene like carrion to a carcass? And what unlikely heroes will rise to the town's defense?

Norman Osborn sends his team of psycho killers to the site of the biggest battle they will ever face: Asgard! Standing in their way are the Mighty Avengers. Witness the confrontation in *Jeff Parker & Miguel Sepulveda's* ***Thunderbolts #141.***

Who—or what—is Ultimate X? *Jeph Loeb & Art Adams* answer that question in ***Ultimate Comics X #1,*** the kickoff of an ongoing bimonthly series. Wolverine is dead. Captain America is a fugitive. The Fantastic Four disbanded. Lives have been destroyed and nothing can ever be the same—is there any hope left? It all begins with a search for a brand new character whose identity will leave jaws on the floor and change the Ultimate Universe forever.

Wolverine has never had luck with women. They usually die or try to kill him. So what happens when a new woman enters his life? Find out in ***Wolverine: Weapon X #10*** by *Jason Aaron & CP Smith.*

In ***X-Men: Pixie Strikes Back,*** Pixie, X-23, Armor, Mercury and Blindfold face a new kind of hell: high school! Things get even worse when Pixie's mother shows up on

Utopia demanding to see her daughter. Discover the truth about Pixie, including the answer to something even *she* doesn't know: the identity of her father- one of the most dangerous X-Villains ever!

Marvel collected volumes, advance solicited for March and April release, include:

- ***Black Panther: Power TP,*** collecting *Black Panther #s 7-11.*
- ***Black Widow: Deadly Origin Premiere HC,*** collecting the four-part miniseries.
- ***Captain Marvel: The Death of Captain Marvel Premiere HC,*** collecting the acclaimed *Jim Starlin* grpahic novel along with several bonus tales.
- ***Daredevil by Ed Brubaker & Michael Lark Omnibus Volume 2 HC,*** collecting *Daredevil #s 106-119 & 500, Daredevil Annual #1,* and *Blood of the Tarantula.*
- ***Daredevil: Lone Stranger TP,*** collecting *Daredevil v1 #s 265-273.*
- ***Dark Avengers Volume 2: Molecule Man Premiere HC,*** collecting *Dark Avengers #s 9-12.*
- ***Deadpool & Cable Ultimate Collection Book 1 TP,*** collecting *Cable & Deadpool #s 1-18.*
- ***Dominic Fortune TP,*** collecting the four-part miniseries, the digital comic, and more.
- ***Essential Daredevil Volume 5 TP,*** collecting *Daredevil #s 101-125* and *Marvel Two-In-One #3.*
- ***Fantastic Four by Jonathan Hickman Volume 1 Premiere HC,*** collecting *FF #s 570-574.*
- ***Ghost Riders: Heaven's On Fire TP,*** collecting the six-part miniseries.
- ***Halo: Helljumper Premiere HC,*** collecting the five-part miniseries.
- ***House of M: Masters of Evil TP,*** collecting the four-part miniseries.
- ***Hulk Volume 3: Hulk No More TP,*** collecting *Hulk #s 10-13* and *Incredible Hulk #600.*
- ***Hulk Volume 4: Hulk Vs. X-Force Premiere HC,*** collecting *Hulk #s 14-18.*
- ***Immortal Weapons TP,*** collecting the five-issue miniseries.
- ***Incredible Hulk Volume 1: Son of Banner Premiere HC,*** collecting *Incredible Hulk #s 601-605*
- ***Invincible Iron Man Volume 1 HC,*** collecting *Invincible Iron Man #s 1-9.*
- ***Iron Man: Extremis HC,*** collecting *Iron Man #s 1-6.*
- ***Iron Man: Tales of the Golden Avengers,*** a mid-sized trade paperback collecting *Iron Man: Armored Adventures, Iron Man: Iron Protocols, Marvel Adventures Iron Man #1,* and *Iron Man & Power Pack #s 3 & 4.*
- ***Kabuki: Reflections HC,*** collecting the first six books in *David Mack's* ***Reflections*** series.
- ***Kick Ass Premiere HC,*** collecting *Kick Ass #s 1-8.*
- ***Luke Cage Noir Premiere HC,*** collecting the four-part miniseries.
- ***Marvel Masterworks: The Avengers Volume 10 HC,*** collecting *The Avengers #s 89-100.*
- ***Marvel Masterworks: Captain America Volume 1 HC,*** collecting Cap stories from *Tales of Suspense #s 59-81.*
- ***Marvel Masterworks: Golden Age Captain America Volume 4 HC,*** collecting *Captain America #s 13-16.*
- ***Mighty Avengers: The Unspoken Premiere HC,*** collecting *Mighty Avengers #s 27-32.*
- ***Models, Inc. GN,*** a smalls-sized trade collecting the four-issue miniseries.
- ***New Avengers: The Reunion TP,*** collecting the four-part miniseries.
- ***New Avengers Volume 12: Power Loss Premiere HC,*** collecting *New Avengers #s 55-60.*
- ***Nextwave: Agents of HATE Ultimate Collection,*** a compilation of the offbeat *Warren Ellis-Stuart Immonen* series.
- ***Spider-Man 24/7 TP,*** collecting *Amazing Spider-Man #s 589-594.*
- ***Spider-Man: American Son TP,*** collecting *Amazing Spider-Man #s 595-599 & Spider-Man Extra #3.*
- ***Spider-Man: Anti-Venom TP,*** collecting *Dark Reign: Anti-Venom #s 1-3* and more.
- ***Spider-Man: The Complete Clone Saga Epic Book One TP,*** collecting the original 1990s Clone Saga featuring art by the incomparable *Mark Bagley* and many others.
- ***Spider-Man: Gauntlet Book 1: Electro & Sandman Premiere HC,*** collecting *Amazing Spider-Man #s 612-616, Dark Reign: The List—Amazing Spider-Man,* and more.
- ***Strange Tales HC,*** collecting the three-issue limited series featuring offbeat tales by indy favorites, along with bonus material.
- ***Thor By Dan Jurgens & John Romita Jr. Volume 2 TP,*** collecting *Thor #s 9-13 & Annual 1999.*
- ***Ultimate Comics Iron Man Ultimate Collection TP,*** collecting ***Ultimate Iron Man*** and ***Ultimate Iron Man II*** written by *Orson Scott Card.*
- ***War Machine Volume 2: Dark Reign TP,*** collecting *War Machine #s 6-12.*
- ***West Coast Avengers Assembled Premiere HC,*** collecting *West Coast Avengers #s 1-4* and more.
- ***Wolverine: Dark Wolverine—The Prince TP,*** collecting *Dark Wolverine #s 75-77* and more.
- ***X-Force Volume 1 HC,*** collecting *X-Force #s 1-11.*
- ***X-Men Legacy: Emplate Premiere HC,*** collecting *X-Men: Legacy #s 228-230 & Annual #1.*

Back to Press

- ***Deadpool Team-Up #899 2nd Printing Variant*** (SEP090468), in stores 12/23.
- ***Haunt #1 3rd Printing*** (OCT098068), in stores 12/2.
- ***Haunt #1 2nd Printing*** (Oct098069), in stores 12/2.

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I'VE GOTTA LEARN WHY SANDMAN TURNED BAD AGAIN.
HE TOLD ME WHERE HE WORKED AT HIS LAST JOB.
YEAH, HE WAS THE BEST COOK I EVER HAD.
TILL HE PHONED TO SAY HE WAS QUITTING!
SOMETHING MADE HIM GO OFF THE DEEP END! BUT WHAT?
STAN / LARRY LEE / LIEBER 12-2
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